Industrial Safety and Health Management 4th ed

FOURTH EDITION

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT

C.RAY ASFAHL

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS



Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458

0058016

sfahl, C. Ray

Industrial Safety and Health Management/ C. Ray Asfahl — 4th ed. p. sm.—(Prentice Hall International Series in industrial and systems engineering) Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-13-895350-3

1. Industrial Safety 2. Industrial hygiene I. Title. II. Series

55.A83.

:8--dc21

97-27372

cauisitions editor: Bill Stenquist ditor-in-chief: Marcia Horton roject manager: AnnMarie Longobardo

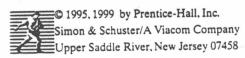
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rt director: Javne Conte fanaging editor: Eileen Clark

age Composition: Ann Marie Longobardo

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Printed in the United States of America

8 7 6 5 4 3

ISBN 0-13-895350-3

Prentice-Hall International (UK) Limited, London Prentice-Hall of Australia Pty. Limited, Sydney

Prentice-Hall Canada, Inc., Toronto

Prentice-Hall Hispanoamericana, S.A., Mexico

Prentice-Hall of India Private Limited, New Delhi

Prentice-Hall of Japan, Inc., Tokyo

Simon & Schuster Asia Pte. Ltd., Singapore

Editora Prentice-Hall do Brasil, Ltda., Rio de Janeiro

PRENTICE HALL INTERNATIONAL SERIES IN INDUSTRIAL AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

W. J. Fabrycky and J. H. Mize, Editors

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To my partner Kela

Preface

This book binds together the traditional examination of time-tested concepts and techniques of safety and health management with a moden perspective on compliance with mandatory standards for workplace safety and health. It is intended to add reason, explanation, and illustration of the hazard mechanisms that form the underlying basis for the volumes of detailed standards for workplace safety and health. Industrial managers know the value of finding the relevant and essential material to understand and develop a strategy for bringing their organizations into compliance with standards, reducing Workers' Compensation claims due to injuries and illnesses, improving productivity, and enhancing the overall well-being of their employees and their workstations.

As the twentieth century draws to a close, dramatic changes have been seen to impact the field of industrial safety and health management. The most notable of these is the instant availability of detailed information on almost any subject pertaining to health and safety. Since the inception of OSHA three decades ago, one of the principal problems facing the Safety and Health Manager has been how to find the relevant and essential information to do the job. OSHA published large volumes of detailed, mandatory standards. What was needed, though, was a strategy or guidance for coming into compliance with the volumes standards. Also needed was understanding of the hazards so that the rationale behind the standards could justify effective actions to come into compliance. Compliance with standards often requires analysis, planning, capitol investment, and follow—through training. Such a process is better justified by a comprehensive understanding of the benefits of compliance beyond the mere avoidance of OSHA fines. One of these benefits is the reduction in Workers' Compensation costs, costs that have recently captured more attention from management as a significant component of direct labor costs.

The fourth edition of this book recognizes and takes advantage of the new and readily available sources of information now accessible to the Safety and Health Manager. The OSHA CD-ROM computer database, now accessible to the public at low cost, makes available OSHA standards interpretations, OSHA enforcement prior-

ities, variances, inspection statistics, and advance notices of new standards in the making. Even more data are available on the Internet, with convenient access by means of effective keyword search engines. These convenient sources of data have been used not only to enhance the content of this book, but also to challenge students by providing research exercises for further study of the topics using the OSHA CD-ROM, the Internet, or conventional libraries to gather more data. The strategy of the fourth edition, then, is not to merely teach information on the various topics of industrial safety and health, but to empower students to readily find their won answers to questions relevant to their mission.

Every chapter has been changed in the fourth edition. The growing subject of occupational health and environmental control has resulted in a decision to split that topic into two chapters, Chapters 8 and 9. The end-of-chapter exercises and study questions have been expanded at least 20% with new problems and exercises in every chapter; in some chapters, the exercises have been increased by 50%. New in the fourth edition are research exercises, which call upon the student to answer questions for which the data are not directly available in this book. These questions can be answered by those students who have access to the Internet or to the OSHA CD-ROM or comprehensive conventional libraries. All questions that require these additional sources of information are indentified as "research exercises," so that students who do not have access to these additional sources of information can still be assigned other exercises supplied at the end of the chapters.

Instructors who teach from this text are advised to contact their Prentice Hall representatives to take advantage of the free comprehensive Instructor's Manual and computer disk available to instructors only. The teaching aids include answers to the end-of-chapter exercises, audiovisual suggestions for every chapter, additional supporting information for every chapter, and a quiz bank of more than 1000 questions for convenient use in composing comprehensive examinations covering the subject matter. Also available are answer keys for every quiz question and page references to the text to help in settling any debates that may be raised by students who attempt to negotiate their sources after examination. Most of the quiz bank and almost all of the end-of-chapter exercises have been classroom tested. Difficulties with any of the material can be resolved by accessing the author's hompage on the Internet. Also available via the Internet are lecture outlines for each chapter, with additional notes supplied for enhancing the classroom lectures.

The many additions to the fourth edition would not have been possible without the advice and assistance of students and respected colleagues from both academia and industry. Mr. Jun-Pin Wong was especially helpful in the generation of cost data, especially the hidden costs of accidents. Mr. Bud Daven and Dr. Sharon Meador were helpful withe the latest developments in Workers' Compensation laws. Others who provided valuable assistance are Jeff Hinkle, Jeff Hardcastle, Christopher Mazur, Luke Chong, Nick McConnell, Paula Roberts, Clyde Ragland, and Karen Standley.

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The Safety and Health Manager

Everyone wants a safe and healthful workplace, but what each person is willing to do to achieve this worthwhile objective can vary a great deal. As a result, the management of each firm must decide at what level, along a broad spectrum, the safety and health effort will be aimed. Some managers deny this responsibility and attempt to leave the decision to employees. This strategy seems to square with hallowed principles of personal freedom and individual responsibility. But such a denial of responsibility by management results in a decision by default, and usually the result is a relatively low level of safety and health in the workplace.

Is the foregoing an indictment on the judgment of the individual worker? Not really, because without a commitment on the part of management, the worker usually is unable singlehandedly to build safety into his or her job station. The behavior of the worker is the most important determinant for his or her safety, but behavior alone cannot make a dangerous job safe. Furthermore, even if a given worker has a strong inclination to be careful and to guard his or her health, there are plenty of production motivations and other quite natural incentives to undermine safe attitudes when management has not made a commitment to safety and health.

One person, usually designated as Safety Director or Industrial Hygienist, sets the tone of the safety and health program within a firm. In fact, right at the start, it says something about the commitment of management when a firm decides to designate a person by title to the responsibility of safety and health. But naming someone Safety Director or Manager of Safety and Health is just a beginning step. Many such persons have little authority and have been largely ignored by management and worker alike, especially in the past. It was not unusual for a Safety Director's work to be typified by public relations activities, such as posting motivational signs and compiling statistics. These are still important functions, but much more responsibility for this function is now recognized.

Something happened in the 1970s to change dramatically the role of the typical Safety Director in industrial firms throughout the country. The passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), a federal agency whose regulations would have a large impact on the role of the typical Safety Director. Chapter 4 discusses this impact in detail, but the balance of this chapter discusses the enlarged role of the person charged with industrial safety and health.

There is little doubt that OSHA enhanced the authority of the Safety Manager in the typical industrial plant in the United States. Prior to OSHA, few Safety Managers

dared to interfere with production schedules to alleviate a safety or health problem. But prominent OSHA cases in the news media have brought to the attention of top management personnel the dire consequences that can ensue when serious safety or health problems are not adequately addressed.

The field of occupational health has probably benefited even more from OSHA than has the field of occupational safety. Prior to OSHA, occupational health seemed to be a matter too remote to really concern anyone, except perhaps the plant nurse. And the plant nurse had little authority to influence policy or even to take action to prevent hazards. Prior to OSHA, the plant nurse was chiefly concerned with first aid, after the fact, and physical examinations, not with hazard abatement and prevention.

In describing the functions of today's executive charged with the safety and health responsibility, this text will use the designation Safety and Health Manager, recognizing the dual nature of the job. Also, the term manager envisions the enlarged scope of responsibility, which includes analysis of hazards, compliance with standards, and capital investment planning, in addition to the conventional functions described earlier. The purpose of this book is to provide tools and guidelines to Safety and Health Managers to help them execute their enlarged duties.

Dealing with applicable standards is one of the greatest challenges facing today's Safety and Health Manager, and to meet this challenge is a primary purpose of this book. Since only 10% of the standards generate 90% of the activity, Safety and Health Managers need guides to the important parts of the standards. Frequently cited standards should receive prime attention because they indicate areas in which industries are having difficulty complying or areas in which enforcement agencies are giving a great deal of attention. In either event, Safety and Health Managers have a need to know these frequently cited standards so that they can bring their facilities within compliance. Besides the frequency of citation, Safety and Health Managers need to know the "why" behind the standards. Until the Safety and Health Manager learns what hazards a particular standard is intended to prevent, he or she will have a difficult time persuading either management or employees that a given situation needs correction.

A REASONABLE OBJECTIVE

Top management sometimes turns a deaf ear to the pleas of the Safety and Health Manager for plant improvements. But the Safety and Health Manager is sometimes a crusader with a one-track mind. Any Safety and Health Manager who feels that elimination of workplace hazards is an indisputable goal is naive. In the real world, we must choose among:

- 1. Hazards that are physically infeasible to correct
- 2. Hazards that are physically feasible, but are economically infeasible to correct
- 3. Hazards that are economically and physically feasible to correct

Until the Safety and Health Manager comes to grips with this reality, he or she cannot expect to enjoy the approval of top management. Some Safety and Health